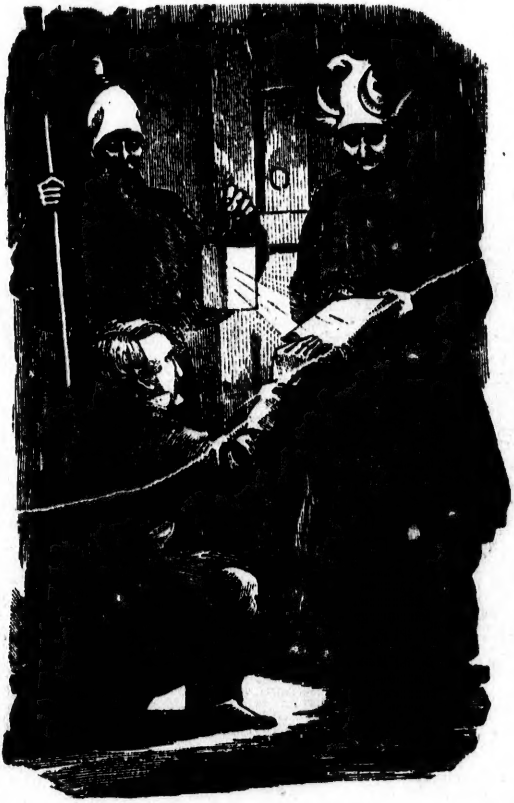
A FULL EXPOSURE

OF THE C. B, S. OR

DARK LANTERN ASSOCIATION,



ENGRAVING

The two Masked members administering to the Candidate the following Oath.

You swear or obligate yourself, that if admitted into the adjoining Lodge Room, you will not reveal what you may either *see*, *hear*, or *understand*. Kiss the Book.

Containing the Proceedings of this Secret Political Society, the Trial at Mirickville and other particulars, Letters, Correspondence, &c., &c., &c.,

PRINTED AT THE "CENTRAL CANADIAN" OFFICE, BROCKVILLE.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

In consequence of the great excitement occasioned by the late extraordinary proceedings of the C. B. S. or Dark Lantern Association, against the Editor of the *British Central Canadian*, and by the request of many friends, we now issue, in pamphlet form, the various articles that have from time to time appeared in the local journals, respecting that Society; which we firmly believe at its inception was disloyal in its objects and tendency. Some may say, that it is not probable that any sane person would take the oath that is printed; we are convinced that many of those now belonging to the Association would not hesitate one moment in so doing, and that to-morrow, if they had the chance or opportunity, they would do all in their power to subvert British connection with this Province. But at the same time, in stating our opinion of one class of the C. B. S., we readily admit that many other members could be picked out, whose loyalty and attachment to our present Government no person would attempt to deny.

The Constitution of the Society has, however, been changed lately, and we may be safe in stating that since the exposure of its secrets, several of the objectional clauses or articles have been omitted or materially changed.

Let our readers judge for themselves, they have seen the denials of the Clear Grit Press, as to the *existence* of the Society, forced to acknowledge they were in error, they now say, " the Constitution is incorrect" ; yet, at the Mirickville trial, sufficient evidence was extracted from the Vice-President of the Society, to shew that part of it was true, and if an opportunity had been given, more truth would have been elicited.

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THE DARK LANTERN ASSOCIATION.

It has been reported and generally well believed for some considerable time past, that a secret political association of parties unfriendly to British connection in these colonies, has existed in various parts of the Province. We have it now in our power to state that such is the fact, and submit to our Conservative friends positive information on the subject.

Some months ago, a notice was circulated through Prescott, offering a reward for the apprehension and conviction of parties who it was said had broken into Brady's Hall in that town, and abstracted books, documents, and other property therefrom, alleged to belong to the Prescott Division of the Sons of Temperance. The parties guilty of the offence were not discovered, and it was rumored through the town that it was not *Temperance documents* that had been taken, but papers and records belonging to a political club that had lately been organized there, and some of the most ultra of the Clear Grit party of Prescott and vicinity, were reported to be members. That a political club was formed, there was no doubt, and from circumstances that had leaked out by unguarded remarks respecting the mode of initiation, the society was called by outsiders, the "Dark Lantern" Lodge. By accident or otherwise, part of the documents so surreptiously taken from the Lodge Room, was picked up in the street, and handed over to a friend, who on examination found that they belonged to the so called Dark Lantern Club, he forwarded on, we are told, the originals to the Honble. J. A. MacDonald, Her Majesty's Attorney General, and kindly favored us with a copy of some of them. We will make no further comments on the subject, but we vouch for the respectability and loyalty of our correspondent. The following is his letter to us:

SOUTH RIDING OF GRENVILLE, Aug. 26, 1861.

My Dear Sir.—As the *British Central Canadian* is justly appreciated for its independence by all Conservative readers, I herewith send you some information respecting the secret political organization called the Canadian Friendly Brothers, or Dark Lantern Society, a branch lodge of which meets in Prescott, and the neighboring County. I anticipate the Attorney General West will see the propriety of causing an enquiry to be made respecting it, and bring the leaders of such a dangerous association to justice;

the whole of the documents have been submitted to him, and I hope ere long to see some action taken by him in the matter.

How I became possessed of the particulars I write about, may form the subject of another letter, but suffice for the present to state, that since the records, &c., were lost, the club in Prescott has not made much progress, for they know well there is damning evidence against them; and from the action taken by a few 'good and true men' in Matilda, the 'Lowry Lodge' in that place does not meet as boldly as they did some time ago; the Prescott Lodge from its records only contains names of 68 members, and the Lodge Matilda numbers 27, making in all 95. By a letter from Quebec, which appeared in the *Conservative Messenger*, the Prescott Club counted upwards of 100, which is an error, judging from the memoranda before me. I send you a copy of the Constitution of the Society, which will explain its object. Part of the 6th by-law which you will see *italicised* by me, was, in the original, scored across with red ink; and to my own knowledge is not now in force, as more than six of the most rigid members of the Church of Rome belong to the Prescott Lodge. Prudential reasons at the present time, preveut me from furnishing the names of the Lantern men, but you would be surprised to hear that amongst the number of conspirators, some of the big-wigs and professionals are to be found. If you think proper, however, to give the names, I shall furnish you with the list.

CONSTITUTION.

1st. The name and title of this, our Society, is, "The Canadian Friendly Brothers," of what is *now* called the British North American Provinces, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward's Island and Newfoundland.

2nd. The Society of "Canadian Friendly Brothers," shall be formed of an unlimited number of persons, desirous of assisting, both with money and means, such of the leading members as will take upon themselves, when chosen so to do, to subvert British rule and connection in these Provinces, as the British Constitution is not adopted to please or satisfy the Canadian people.

3rd. That we pledge ourselves, one to the other, under a most solemn obligation, to support with money and other assistance, to the utmost of our ability, those who shall be chosen to carry out a written Constitution suitable to the people of these Provinces, as we are well aware the Constitution of Great Britain is as obnoxious

to the majority of the people here, as it was eighty-six years ago to the people of the United States.

4th. That it is essentially necessary for the successful termination of this Society, that a member be not hastily admitted into our organization, until he be first thoroughly examined as to his political opinions by some of the olde t members present, or known to them for at least six months previous, and that his opinion be in strict conformity with the preceding article, No. 3.

5th. *Fees of Admission.*—The fee of admission for each member entering this Society, shall be five dollars, and one dollar for every three months, for each and every member; which money shall be duly sent to the Grand Treasurer immediately after the receipt thereof, and he is to be held accountable for the same to the President and other Grand Officers of our organization, who shall meet for that and other purposes every six months, or oftener if need may be, for the proper carrying out of this our purpose.

6th. *It is forbidden, at least for the present, to admit Roman Catholics into our Societg, as we cannot yet say whether the several Bishops and Clergy will aid us in our designs or not.* Above all things, let a watchful eye be kept on all Orangemen; let not the most simple or affable of that body who may talk with you, know anything about our meetings, for Orangemen are the *most bitter enemies* to the objects of this our Society.

7th. And it is hereby earnestly and strictly enjoined on every officer and member of our organisation, to meet in the darkness, having a lamp for that purpose; so that all things be kept secret; no enemy find his way to our camp; and that no more than two members do travel or walk together to our place of meeting, lest any suspicion of the existonce of our Society be excited, or advantage of our deliberations may be taken by our enemies, and thus be the means of frustrating all our designs.

Signed with our hands and Seals, this 19th of March, 1859.

Signed by the President, V. President, Treasurer, Secretary.

The *Recorder*, in its last issue, pretends to doubt the existence of these political associations, and because there is a slight difference in the Constitutions that have been discovered and published, he pronounces the whole to be a '*bug-a-boo*' and a '*cock-and-bull story!*' We give credit to our confrere for the sophistry and plausibility of his remarks, but think he would have benefitted his party much more if he had come out and manfully denied that

there is such a society in this and the neighboring Counties. Will the *Recorder* deny that secret political associations do not exist in Prescott, Maitland, Kemptville and Mirickville, and that the members of these associations are principally, if not wholly, Clear Grits? Will he deny that the members, in their lodge rooms, wear masks and cloaks, in order that they may not be discovered or known? Will he deny that upon one or more occasions a candidate for admission has refused to take the oath or obligation proffered him, because of its disloyal nature?

Our respected confrere is well aware that in several secret associations, a slight difference may exist as to the manner and form of working in each lodge, but still they all agree in the main principle; hence may arise the discrepancy between the first Constitution, as published in the *Central Canadian*, and the last one, which the *Recorder* condescends to notice.

Our confrere, in his attempt to be witty, styles our journal "a phunny Orange sheet." We are not ashamed of the title, and think it more honorable to rank as a private member of that institution than if we were an expatriated chief of a defunct chartist conspiracy. The *Recorder* would fain make his readers believe that no such political society as the Canadian Brethern exists. The *Messenger* and the *Observer* journals, published in Prescott and Kemptville, assert positively the contrary, but not being initiated into the mysteries, they cannot tell precisely the articles of the Constitution. We are prepared, however, when necessary, to prove by the sworn testimony of our correspondent, that the Constitution of the C. B's., as first published by us, was found amongst the papers said to be abstracted from the Lodge Room in Prescott; that the members wear masks and cloaks or disguises when assembled together; and that several persons, honest reformers, desiring to join the brethern, have refused to take the obligation in consequence of its disloyal tendency!! What say you, *Mr. Recorder*, to these assertions? If the obligation or oath that is published is not the one taken by the Dark Lantern folks, do, for pity sake, let us know the true one; if the articles of the Constitution are false, favor the community with the real Simon Pure, even supposing they be revised and prepared for the occasion. If our confrere is anxious to obtain correct information on these matters, we refer him to some of his friends in Prescott, Kemptville, Mirickville or Maitland.

TO THE PUBLIC.

For some months past, the good people of our town have been exercised by the floating rumors of the existence of what they termed *The Dark Lantern Society*. Who are the members composing it? What are its objects? And who broke into the room and took the books and papers? are queries in everybody's mouth, but to which hitherto no satisfactory answer has been given. The mystery hanging over the whole affair has added much to the interest attached to it, and it is my intention now to clear away somewhat of that mystery, and to furnish the public with some definite information upon the subject, and information upon which they can rely.

The papers and books of the Association were at one time in my possession, but are not now. I have retained only a copy of them. It was not my intention to have allowed it to be known where the originals were, but some meddlesome Government Clerk has communicated to the *Conservative Messenger* newspaper, tidings of their whereabouts, and since the Public is placed in possession of that much information, I think it best to lay the whole matter before them. Since the publication of the Quebec letter in the *Messenger*, some one, partially informed on the subject, has sent to the *British Central Canadian*, a garbled and incorrect copy of the Constitution. The person, whoever he is, has evidently seen the original document, and has prepared the copy, which has been published, from memory. It is incorrect, as any one will see by comparing it with the subjoined, which has been very carefully transcribed.

The original paper came into my possession in March last (how I got into the room and made away with them is my own business.) Early in April I forwarded them to Quebec, and there they have remained and no action taken upon them up to the present time. As the whole matter was there placed in the hands of a high officer of the Crown, I did not think it was advisable nor prudent to let anything be known of the matter, until

Government had concluded what course to take. Had I felt at liberty to have given the information I now give, before the late General Election, probably it might have altered the result, at least as far as our own Riding was concerned; for the Electors would have then known what were the sentiments of the body which nominated and exerted itself to secure the election of one of the candidates.

I consider that as the Government has been very dilatory in the matter, it is on the whole better that the Public were placed in possession of the facts, and if the Ministers of the Crown will not take steps to suppress treason, that the loyal people of this Riding will.

With these explanations, I beg to lay before the Public the Constitution, &c., of the "*Canadian Brotherhood.*" I do not think it is advisable to publish the names of the members for the present, and the minutes contain no matters of interest worthy of publication.

THE EDITOR.

Augusta, Sept. 14, 1861.

CONSTITUTION:

"*Article First.*—This Association shall be called "The Canadian Brothers and Protective Society." The objects of the "organization are, 1st. For the purpose of exercising an influence "upon Elections in favor of Reform Candidates. 2nd. For the "general furtherance of Reform principles. 3rd. To aid in the "suppression of Popery in Canada. 4th. For the purpose of pre-"paring the minds of the people for the overthrow of the British "rule in America, and the establishment of an independent Gov-"ernment: and 5th. For the mutual benefit of the brethren in "their respective callings.

"*Article Second.*—That this Association shall be governed by "the following officers, to wit: a President, a Vice-President, a "Secretary, a Treasurer, a Marshall, a Janitor, and an Executive "Committee, composed of the first four mentioned officers, and "five other brothers. All these officers shall be elected by ballot "annually at the first regular meeting in January.

"*Article Third.*—The brethren shall meet in convocation (ex-"cept when prevented by sickness, absence from home, or the "most urgent business) in the Room of the Association, every "Friday evening at Eight o'clock.

"*Article Fourth.*—As the first principle in the organization of "this Association is to exert an influence in Elections, the "brethren must be unanimous in the support of the Reform Can-"didate, unless by vote of the brethren in regular convocation, "such Candidate is declared untrustworthy or unfit for the position "to which he aspires. In every case the brethren must govern "themselves as the majority may decide; any personal feelings or "pecuniary interests to the contrary notwithstanding.

"*Article Fifth.*—In no case is any positive information rela-"tive to the Association to be given, or of any of its acts, nor is "any brother to acknowledge his membership in it, but to steadily "deny it under all circumstances.

"*Article Sixth.*—It shall be the duty of each and every brother "of this Association to aid and assist every other brother in his "trade and profession, as far as he can do so. No brother is to "employ in any capacity, any person, if a brother can be employed "in the same capacity.

"*Article Seventh.*—Any brother knowing of a person who "would likely make a submissive and obedient member of this "Association, shall, at a regular convocation nominate such person "and if he be duly seconded, his name with those of his mover "and seconder, shall be entered upon the minutes. At the next

"regular convocation such person shall be ballotted for, and if no "black ball appear against him he shall be declared accepted. It "shall then be the duty of his nominator to induce such person to "join the Association, representing the organization to him in such "a light as will make it most inviting to him. The brother in "such case is not to represent himself as a member, but that he "also desires to join, and he is to conduct the candidate to the door, "and pass through the ceremony of initiation with him as if he "also were uninitiated. One dollar is to be paid into the funds of "the Association for each and every person initiated in it. No "person is to be considered a member of the Association, or en-"trusted with the secrets unless he has passed through the pres-"cribed ceremony.

"*Article Eighth.*—Each brother shall pay into the funds of the "Association the sum of twenty-five cents at the first regular con-"vocation in every month. If any brother shall neglect to liqui-"date his dues to the Association for three successive months, he "shall, if no adequate excuse be offered for his neglect, be suspen-"ded from all the benefits and privileges of the Association, until "such time as his indebtedness shall be satisfied.

"*Article Ninth.*—This Constitution or any part thereof may be "either altered or amended by the vote of three-fourths of the "brethren present at any regular convocation; notice in writing "of the same having been given at a regular convocation, two "months previously.

"We the undersigned, agree to act and govern ourselves "agreeably to the foregoing Constitution, or to the same altered "or amended, as provided for in Article Ninth thereof.

(Here follow the names of the members, which are omitted.—EDITOR.)

(The following was found among the papers, sealed up and endorsed: "C. B. *Initiation Ceremony.—Not to be opened except "by vote of the Brethren.*"—EDITOR.)

"A person willing to be ad tted a member of this Association "is to be conducted to the room by his nominator, who is also to "pass through the ceremony with him.

"They are to knock at the outer door, where the Janitor, "masked, disguised in dress, and armed with a drawn sword, in "feigned voice inquires, '*who desires admission?*'

"Answer.—'*Two persons, who entertaining a good opinion of "the Association, desire to partake in its mysteries and benefits.*'

"Janitor.—'*If you are admitted, do you promise strictly to "obey the laws and usages?*'

"Answer.—'*We do.*'

"Janitor.—'*You will then await until I enquire of the bre-"thren are willing to admit you, for I have no authority to do "to myself,*'—(Shuts and bolts the door.)

"Janitor enters the room and announces who is without. When "all things are prepared, the brethren disguised and masked, the "Janitor returns to the door and admits the applicants. They "are then examined, and found to have no concealed weapons "upon them, their hands are tied behind their backs, a rope put "about their necks, and being blindfolded, are led into the room. "They are conducted to the President's Chair, required to kneel "upon the step of the Platform, and repeat the following oath, "an open Bible lying before them:

"I _____, as I value my life, and hope to escape the "fires of Hell after death, do hereby promise, vow and swear, "that I will never divulge any of the secrets of this Association. "That I will strictly live up to all its rules and regulations—"obey all its orders, and do all things which I am required to do. "That I will be true to the Reform party and never vote for any one for any office whatsoever, who is not a Reformer, unless I am "required to do otherwise by vote of the brethren of this Associa-"tion. That I will do all that lays in my power to weaken th "British authority in America, more especially Canada, and will

"be ever ready to join in any revolution to overthrow it. That "I will never encourage the Roman Catholic Church in any way, "nor any individual member of it, with my vote, my confidence, "or my friendship. That I will never marry a Roman Catholic "woman, send my children to a Roman School, or employ a "Roman Catholic in any capacity. even the most trivial. That "I will do al things in my power to disqualify Roman Catholic "voters. That I will treat Tories and Tory Orangemen in the "same manner in every respect that I have sworn to treat Papists. "That I will never employ any person outside of this Association, "in any capacity whatever, when I can employ a brother. That "I will never give any information touching the existence of this "Association—nor under any circumstance will I acknowledge "that I belong to it myself, nor give the name of any one who "does. To all of which I solemnly swear, and if I violate any or "either of the points may I be hung by the neck till I am dead, "and my soul eternally damned in Hell.—*Amen.*

"The new brothers are then directed to arise, the bandages are "removed from their eyes, the rope from about their necks, and "their hands loosened. They are then presented with the De-"claration, which is read over to them. the brethren surrounding "them armed with swords, daggers, or bowie knives, and threaten-"ing their lives if they refuse. When they have signed the De-"claration the President instructs them in the signs and pass-"words. The sign of recognition is to pass the right hand over "the bridge of the nose, the answer to it being to pass the left "hand in the same manner. The passwords to be given to the "Janitor to gain admittance into a convocation are, '*The Honor-"able George Brown.*' The real passwords to be given in trying "a strange brother, and then only by alternate syllables are '*Li-"bertas et Natale Salum.*'

"The new brother is then required to sign the Constitution, "and is allowed to take his seat, the brethren resuming their "proper clothing.

(This paper is signed by three of the brethren who were probably a committee appointed to prepare it.)

DECLARATION WHICH IS TO BE SIGNED BY THE NEW BRETHREN.

"When a Province or Colony has attained to such a position "with regard to population and wealth to warrant it, it becomes "its bounden duty to assume a free and independent position "among the nations of the earth. throwing off any allegiance to "another country or nation which it may before have acknow "ledged.

"In the opinion of the undersigned, the Province of Canada "has attained such position. She possesses a population of over "Three Millions of industrious and enterprising people, which is "being annually increased by emigration. She possesses an ac- "cumulation of wealth, such as an energetic people would natu- "rally get together. She possesses a geographical position which "insures to her the command of the greatest bodies of inland "waters of the continent. She possesses canals of great length, "which control and render practicable the navigation of the St. "Lawrence, besides commanding the communication between the "great lakes and the ocean. She possesses a railway system of "great perfection—which in its ramifications covers the whole of "her territory. She possesses natural advantages, such as are "exceeded by no nation, among which may be enumerated a "healthy climate, a fertile soil, an unexplored mineral wealth and "great advantages for manufacturing. Can any people ask for "more; has not Canada every advantage a young nation can de- "sire? She has been trampled upon and downtrodden by the "Government of Great Britain. She has been cursed for six "years with a British Governor who has ruled the people with an "iron rod—trampled upon their liberties—countenanced, nay "even aided and abetted the Government bribery and corruption, "who has given undue prominence to Roman Catholic institutions "to the detriment of those of the Protestant Religion—who has

"lent himself as the servile tool of base and dishonest ministers "who have robbed and plundered the country. After all this, "and after the people of this Province have, through their repre-"sentatives and their public men, denounced his acts as unjust, "dishonest and detrimental to the interests of the Province, the "Government of Great Britain has thought fit to retain him as "the ruler, the tyrant and incubus over this people.

"We, the undersigned, think that we cannot be just to our "selves or our families if we do not take a determined stand "against the abuses to which we have been subjected. We con-"sider that the time has arrived when we should throw off our "allegiance to the British Crown and take the independent place "among the nations of the earth, to which the laws of nature and "of nature's God entitle us. We consider that our grievances-"have been excessive, greater, far, far greater than an indepen "dent people can be expected to submit to. We consider that as "a seperate republic, Canada must thrive and grow better than as "a Province or Colony of a rich and powerful nation.

"We look upon the increasing size and importance of the "Roman Catholic Church in this Province with much alarm, and "fear that the good principles of Protestantism must suffer there-"from. We fully believe that the Government of Great Britain, "from the Queen on the Throne to the lowest Minister in office, "is more or less tainted with Catholicism. We believe that not-"withstanding Victoria's vaunted tittle of Defender of the Faith "that she is at heart a Papist, and the State Church of which she "is the head, is only removed from that of Rome by a paper "wall. We believe that as long as we are connected with the "British Nation that the Church of Rome and its near neighbour "the Church of England will both thrive in our midst to the de-"triment of purely Protestant churches.

"We conscientiously believe that it is the undoubted right and "privilege of any people to throw off an allegiance which has "proved itself oppressive and detrimental to the interests of the "country; and to establish such a government as shall better "answer the requirements of the people.

"For the purpose of carrying out these sentiments and objects, "we pledge, one to the other, our lives, our fortunes and our "sacred honor."

(Here follow the signatures which I omit, as before.—Editor.)

The publication of the foregoing, altho' anonymous, attracted public attention, and several Journals made remarks thereon.—The Recorder published the entire document, and as in duty bound to his party, denied that any secret Reform Society existed.

The Prescott *Messenger* when speaking of these Associations says:—"We have heretofore said nothing editorially of the existence of a society in Prescott, having ramifications throughout the adjoining Counties, known by the above names. How long it has been in existence—what are its objects—who are its members—are questions that have long been asked, and answered, as the mood of the person interrogated happened to dictate. We believe that but few outside of the "charmed circle" know aught of these matters; but on some points, all appear to agree; a secret society is in existence, with regular meetings, passwords, &c.; the doorkeeper of which has been seen masked; the greatest care has been taken not to excite the suspicion of outsiders; the acting members are all of one political stripe, and are evidently banded together for an evil object, else, why so much secresy? From time, to time, various rumors have gone abroad respecting it. For example, that certain gentlemen, in Brockville, received a letter from Prescott, praising the society, and enlarging, to the extent of several pages, on the benefits to arise from its spread. These gentlemen are further reported to have applied for admission, and

even gone so far as to the inside of the door, and *then backed out*. Previous to Easter last, its existence appears to have been a secret to the public, but about that time placards in various places offered a reward of 100 dollars for the recovery of certain books and papers said to have been stolen from the small room in connection with Brady's Hall, occupied by the Sons of Temperance. The amount of the reward first excited suspicion, and enquiry soon led to the belief that this hall was used for other purposes than mere temperance meetings; in fact, rumor quickly assigned to this spot the character of a rendezvous for a band of conspirators, whose intentions were as dark as the room in which their designs were discussed. We are not of the political stripe that would gain admittance, and can therefore know nothing of its intentions, except as they manifest themselves in every day life. The letter which we published a few weeks since from Quebec, is said to have been quite a bomb-shell in their camp, and report said the whole thing would be given to the public through the next *Messenger*, if our columns were placed at their disposal; but we find in the last *Central Canadian* what purports to be a copy of the Constitution and give it without knowing anything about its correctness.

And in another number when alluding to the quibbling of the Clear Grit Press on the subject the *Messenger* adds:—

"We perceive that the Mirickville *Chronicle* and Perth *Courier* allude in a flippant manner to the supposed Constitution of this Society which we published last week, evidently wishing to make the public believe that no such Society exists. Now, very possibly both these writers *are members of the Society;* as we understand some of the craft have found their way into its mysteries. There can be no doubt that its constitution is borrowed from the Know Nothing order, which flourished a few years since in the United States, and rumor says that it is rapidly spreading itself over the country, and Lodges exist in various localities from Sar-

nia to Quebec, or even Gaspe. As we said last week its members are masked, and its meetings are regular—Friday evening the Lodge meets in Prescott. The existence of a Lodge in Maitland was well known some months since, and its members frightened from meeting by the threats of arrest; in Iroquois it was sufficiently strong to control the Municipal elections last January, while in Matilda, its exposure at the same time ousted the man supposed to be its leader. Scarcely two months have elapsed since a meeting took place in Kemptville, but how many the lodge there now numbers we do not know.

We give these particulars for the purpose of putting the public on their guard, as many have been led into it by false representations of its being only a Canadian benevolent Society, of a similar character and with the same designs, as the St. George's St. Andrews's, St. Patrick's and other National Societies. When too late to recede, the unfortunate victim discovers ulterior objects of the most tyrannical kind, and of the existence of which he never dreamt. We therefore warn all to be on their guard, and not allow themselves to be entrapped by the craftiness of others. The case of one Steamburgh of Matilda, who was being initiated, and refused to take an oath required of him is well known; but even all the pommeling the members could inflict, was insufficient to make him forswear his country. Honest men should eschew it altogether, but if entrapped, watch narrowly the oath administered, and refuse to swear to anything *treasonable or improper;* above all refuse to promise to *perjure yourself*, rather than admit your connection or the society's existence.

The *Monitor* of Sept. 21st says:—"We have received a printed sheet of what purports to be the true constitution of the *Dark Lantern Society of Prescott.* The document is anonymous, without name or signature attached, and is, therefore, to be regard-

ed with the greatest suspicion. Why the necessity of all this secresy? If a treasonable society exists in Prescott, an information before an intelligent magistrate will enable him to probe the matter to the bottom. We must confess we do not like anonymous charges, and require more tangible proof ere we believe that the Clear Grits of Prescott, or of anywhere else in Canada, just now, would be so foolish as to engage in any treasonable project. It is very possible, too, that there might be a deeper game going on in this matter, than may at first be supposed. The American press just now would be delighted to hear of any disaffection in Canada, and this presumed affair at Prescott might be a plot in their interest. At the same time, we may as well state that we have been informed that a secret Reform Society does exist in Prescott, and that parties about to be initiated have declined to take the oath. This information comes from a creditable source; and we believe it to be correct. The most suspicious feature in the affair is the fact that the *Recorder* and *Telegraph* have said little or nothing about the charges in the *Messenger*, and seem disposed to give them quietly the go-by. The circular complains of want of action on the part of the government. The government can only act through a migistrate. Why not at once lodge an information before a Magistrate? If the Prescott magistrates will not take up the case, Brockville magistrates will not shrink from their duty. The name of the party who lodges the information need not be known and can be kept perfectly secret.

No positive proof was as yet known of the existence of a C.B.S. in Kemptville, until the following letter appeared in the British Central Canadian, of Sept. 18th.

To the Editor of the British Central Canadian.

KEMPTVILLE, Sept. 16, 1861.

Dear Sir,—Our loyal and hitherto peaceable little village has been in great commotion lately, owing it is said to the discovery

of a branch lodge of the Canadian Friendly Brothers, or Dark Lantern Association amongst us. It appears that a number of Clear Grits, composed of half naturalzed Yankees and rabid radicals, most of whom you are well acquainted with, were in the habit of meeting in the Templars Hall here; but although their proceedings were conducted with great secresy, some suspicion was excited that these meetings were held for a political object. Be that as it may, the chest belonging to the Society was one morning found open, the books were extracted, and sundry *masks* and cloaks supposed to belong to the members were torn up and destroyed. The parties guilty of the outrage have not yet been found out, though some of the papers stolen have been seen in the street. The Constitution of the Society was not amongst the documents, but I hear that a letter from the Prescott Lodge advising that certain clauses of the Constitution of the Society should be changed, as it was likely from late discoveries that the Brethren would feel obligated to publish something to satisfy the public,—a requisition also from certain prominent parties in Mirickville, praying for a dispensation to open a lodge in that village was also found, and you would be surprised to see the names of the signers; but it is most satisfactory that amongst the whole of the members names, not one Conservative can be found. On becoming a member of the Lodge, the name of the party is duly entered opposite a certain number, and in the minutes of proceedings during the meeting, instead of entering in the book, moved by brother A. seconded by brother B., the form is moved by such a number say No 1, seconded by No. 3, that so and so be adopted. You would laugh, my dear Kelly, if you could only see the lengthened visages of some of the brethren, who are well known. I saw by chance a copy of the Brockville *Monitor* of last week; you may tell that worthy, that although he may strive to conceal the existence of these Societies, and ridicule you for making them known to the public, nevertheless they are in full blast throughout Canada,

and only for the disturbances in the United States we would hear more from them. The Hunter's Lodges of 1837-8, and the Canadian Friendly Brothers of the present, are one and the same, both treasonable, and I hope will be put down by the indignation of the loyalists of Canada.

The small majority of our friend Jones at the last election, may be attributed to the exertions of the Dark Lantern brethren. The same clique are doing all they can to persuade the people of the North Riding that we are to have another election very soon, in consequence of some informality in one of the assessment books. You know well that this is all humbug, intended more from a wish to annoy our friend, than from any hope of being able to turn him out. I feel confident that if we had a new election to-morrow, the majority in favor of Jones against Smith would be twenty times greater than before. So much for the Dowdall and Dark Lantern business.

Yours truly,

PAUL PRY.

This letter was confirmed by an article in the Kemptville *Observer* which says:—

"Since our last issue, further discoveries have been made by the curious, respecting the distinguished Lodge of this much abused Association that honors our village with its mysterious presence. Many and conflicting are the rumours current here, amongst the great unwashed, respecting the strength of the Association. When the members will cease to be ashamed to avow their membership, their probable power for future evil, and other such queries. But the most startling rumour of all is, that some desperado, not having the fear of the dreaded mysteries of this Council of Ten before his eyes, nefariously entered the sacred precints of their mystic hall, and wickedly and feloniously carried off their whole stock in trade, masks, cloaks, emblems and all were

taken; and not even a rag, not a vestage of their petted paraphernalia was left behind. The abject horror of the members upon discovering this worse than "Vandal trick" may be imagined, but not described. In blissful ignorance of the foul robbery committed, they had met, as was their wont, to consult the oracles as to the future prospects of their beloved Order, and to receive perchance, a Dark Lantern Revelation. Upon discovering the loss they had sustained, they left the Hall in disgust, and whether they will go to the expense of again procuring sable mantles and painted masks, is very questionable.

THE DARK LANTERNS AGAIN.

From the Central Canadian Oct. 20.

The *Recorder* is certainly one of the most slippery of the *genus homo*, that we ever came in contact with, and as a political acrobat none can excel him. Only a few days ago, with all the semblance of injured innocence, he denied the existence of any secret Clear Grit Society, and accused us of being the sole author of this calumnious charge; 'concocted,' as he said, for the express purpose of sowing dissension in the ranks of the Reform party. Finding however, that his statement was generally disbelieved, he last week admits "that a secret society of some kind or the other is really in existence." Compelled to tell the truth, he performs the unwilling task in a most ungracious manner, and true to his Grittish proclivities for misrepresentation, asserts what he knows to be untrue. We do not wish to insinuate that our confrere is addicted to 'fibbing' and believe that he would give the preference to truth at all times, if he found it more convenient or profitable to his party, than falsehood.

We give the *Recorder* credit for knowing more about the Canadian Brotherhood than we do, but feel surprised at his daring effrontery in saying that "*he knows as a fact, that a great many Conservatives belong to the Society.*" As Sam Weller said, 'that is a thumper.' Now Master *Recorder*, no shuffling or thimble-rigging; we challenge you to name one Conservative who is an *initiated* member of the Canadian Brotherhood. Is there one in the Farmersville lodge, to which your worthy self is reported to be attached? Is there one in the Pioneer Lodge of Prescott, of which Dr. Easton is the presiding genius? Is H. D. Smith of Mirickville, Muir, Hall, Wright, Holden, Wickwire, Stone, and others of the same political kidney—are any of these Conservatives, or will you attempt to deny that they are members of the Brotherhood? Our information is not complete, but to assist you in the search for a Conservative, we can give you the names of upwards of 30 porsons in Kemptville, who are *bona fida* obligated members of the so called Dark Lantern Club. And as for the Kemptville section, you could not find one honest politician in the whole gang, or as much liberality as would induce them to vote for a Conservative pound-keeper.

We have been frequently challenged to publish the names of the members; we have been reproached for our silence in not doing so; our statement has been styled a 'Mare's Nest,' 'A vile incendiary attack,' and a 'bugaboo.' We now accept the challenge; we take up the gauntlet you have so frequently thrown at us. We publish in this day's paper sufficient damning proof that we have such infernal societies in our midst—we give you the names of the members and their proceedings, and if the *Recorder* or any other skeptic visits our office, he can there see some of the regalia of the Kemptville Brethren, sent to us for inspection by some unknown person; and the books also.

But the *Recorder* and others say that the Constitution of the C. B. S. as published is not the correct one. We can prove by

most undoubted evidence, that immediately after the discovery of the Gang, a letter was sent by Dr. Easton, to the senior section in Kemptville, calling upon the Lodge to revise the Constitution, and again on the 8th August last, after the papers had been found in Prescott, another letter from the same gentleman, urges the necessity of a change—for the more open and efficient working of the order—he recommends a change in the Preamble; that the second degree be abolished; and that the obligation of secrecy be so altered, as to allow members to acknowledge their connection with the society, if they think proper.

The *Recorder*, and other advocates of the society, say, that Good Conservatives have been elected as members of the Club. This is a gross falsehood, and we beg to expose the dodge, it is thus :—When the Lodge is opened a Sable coated Brother, known only by the number on his mask, gets up and proposes Messrs. A. B. and C. as fit and proper persons to become members—the motion is carried—and without the knowledge or consent of the parties proposed, their names are desecrated by being uttered in such a den of political iniquity. The Lodge then proceeds to the next step, and these parties are declared duly elected as members on the roll of the society, all this is done, so that the apologist of this notorious association may be able to say to strangers, why my dear sir, you admit that Messrs. A. B and C, are good Conservatives, do you think they would join a disloyal body, such as the *Central Canadian* describes it? it is preposterous to imagine it, and I can assure you on my honor, that these gentlemen have been duly proposed and elected, and their names are on our record, you can have no objection to join us in such good company. That this is a truthful exposure the *Recorder* proves in his last number, and we have said sufficient to put unsuspecting persons on their guard.

Again, the *Recorder* would fain assimilate the C. B. fraternity with other secret Societies in Canada, which is another gross insult. It is true that the Free Masons, Orangemen, and the different Order of the sons of Temperance, wear certain regalia in their Lodge Room and processions; but they wear no hideous masks to conceal their honest faces—their Constitutions are printed and and patent to the world. Not so with the Lantern humbugs, they dread discovery, and in sable mantles and painted vis-

ages, with just light sufficient to make darkness visible, conspire together for suspicious purposes, known only to the initiated.

We give a list of the obligated Members of the Kemptville Lodge, and their corresponding numbers, as appears in the Roll:

F. A. Moore, 1; Craig Holmes, 2; John E. Maley, 3; Hiram Holmes, 4; Michael Keenan, 5; Thomas Adams, 6; Rev. Wm. Price, 7; John Fannin, 8; Edson Rossetor, 9; James Scott, 10; H. N. Garlick, 11; John Selleck junr. 12; John Perkins, 13; Daniel Keenan, 14; George Dunbar, 15; George T. Maley, 16; Henry Agnew, 17; H. D. Smith, 18; H. Shaler, 19; T. S. Fraser, 20; David J. Hall, 21; Neil Keenan, 22; Lyman C. Beach, 23; Wesley Beach, 24; John Christie, 25; Geo. Selleck 26; A. Smith, 27; John Mallon, 28; D. C. Stone, 29; A. Smith, 30; Walter Wickwire, 31; Wright Smith, 32; H. C. Perkins, 33; Samuel Breden, 34.

THE DARK LANTERN'S AGAIN.

From the British Central Canadian.

We furnish our subscribers with a correct copy of the minutes of proceedings of the Senior Section of the Canadian Brotherhood Society, held in Kemptville. The minutes commence with the opening of the Lodge in April 22nd, and we shall in our succeeding numbers continue our notice. The members present at the first meeting, were previously members of the Pioneer Lodge of Prescott. The first member elected in Kemptville was Edson Rossetor, No. 9; by carefully perusing the entries, the other members will easily be found out.

KEMPTVILLE, April 22, 1861.

Pursuant to notice from the President of Pioneer Section of the C. B. S of Upper Canada, the petitioners and several members of said Section met at Kemptville, on Monday, April 22, 1861, for the purpose of organizing the Senior Section of the C. B. S. for the North Riding of Leeds and Grenville—the following members being present:

J. Easton; F. A. Moore, No. 1; Craig Holmes, No. 2; John

E. Maley, No. 3; H. Holmes, No. 4; Michael Keenan, No. 5; T. Adams, No. 6; Rev. Wm. Price, No. 7; John Fannin, No. 8.

Nomination of officers for ensuing year: F. A. Moore, President, No. 1; Craig Holmes, V. P., No. 2; John E. Maley, Secretary, No. 3; H. Holmes, Treasurer, No. 4; Michael Keenan, Marshal, No. 5; Thomas Adams, Scrutineer, No. 6, were then duly elected and installed into their respective offices.

The following candidates were then duly proposed, elected and *initiated*, viz.: Edson Rossitor, No. 9; James Scott, No. 10; H. A. Garlick, No. 11; John Selleck, Jr., No. 12.

Moved by 3, and seconded by 4,—That the regular meeting of this section shall be held on Monday evening of each week.—Car.

MONDAY, 29th April, 1861.

The Senior Section of the C.B.S. of the North Riding of Leeds and Grenville, met pursuant to adjournment at Kemptville, on Monday, April 29, 1861; President F. A. Moore in the Chair. Officers present: Craig Holmes, V. P.; John E. Maley, Sec'y; H. Holmes, Treasurer; T. Adams, Scrutineer.

Minutes of previous Session read and approved.

No. 3 proposed the following persons as fit subjects to become members of the order, viz.:—H. G. Ellis, William Ellis, Daniel Nichols, Wesley Beach, William Howey, Mahlon Beach, George T. Maley, Thos. S. Fraser.

No. 1 proposed the following persons to become members of this section, viz:—Horace Hutchens, Hugh Martin, Erastus Harris, H. D. Smith, James H. Hutchens, Gordon Shaver, James Smith, Joseph Adams.

No. 12 proposed George Sellick, Lyman Beach, C. Beach, Benjamin McCargar, George Dunbar, William Spotswood, Senr., and William Spotswood, Junr., as proper persons to become members of our order.

No. 2 proposed Albert Beach, J. W. Healy, H. C. Perkins, J. Cowan and Erastus Fenton, as fit and proper persons to become members of this section of the C. B. S.

No. 10 proposed the following as fit persons to become members of our Order, viz:—Alexander Buchanan, John Coleman, James Kirkup.

No. 6 proposed R. H. Bedingfield, D. Adams, R. H. Schofield, Robert Parkinson and Samuel Beach.

No. 11 proposed Wm. A. Garlick, John Perkins and Augustus Brandon.

No. 4 proposed Neil Keenan, Daniel Keenan, Surager Barnes, Augustus Boyd, Henry Shaler and Wm. Dougall.

Moved by No. 3 and seconded by No. 10, and *Resolved*,—That article No. —— Section of the By-Laws, as provided by Article No. —— Section, be suspended, for the purpose of electing the following candidates, viz:—George Sellick, G. Dunbar, J. M. Healy, John Perkins, G. Maley, S. Barnes, R. Bedingfield, and Wm. Dougall.—*Carried.*

Moved by 3 and seconded by 10, that George Sellick be now elected.—*Carried.*

Moved by 4, and seconded by 2, that George Dunbar be now elected.—*Carried.*

Moved by No. 11 and seconded by No. 6, that J. M. Healy be elected.—*Carried.*

Moved by No. 12 and seconded by No. 11, that John Perkins be elected.—*Carried.*

Moved by No. 2 and seconded by No. 10, that George Maley be elected.—*Carried.*

Moved by No. 10 and seconded by No. 4, that Surager Barnes be elected.—*Carried.*

Moved by No. 2 and seconded by No. 6, that R. Bedingfield be elected.—*Carried.*

Moved by No. 3 and seconded by No. 4, that William Dougall be elected.—*Carried.*

Moved by No. 3, and seconded by No 4,—That our next regular meeting be held in the Good Templars' Hall.—*Carried.*

Section adjourned in due form.

J. E. Maley, Secretary.

Kemptville, 6th May, 1861.

The Senior Section of the C. B. S. for the North Riding of Leeds and Grenville, met pursuant to adjournment at the Templars Hall, on Monday evening, 6th May. President F. A. Moore, in the chair. *Officers Present:*—Craig Holmes, Vice President; John E. Maley, Secretary; H. Holmes, Treasurer; Michael Keenan, Marshall; Thom s Adams Scrutineer.

Minutes of previous Session read and approved.

The following persons were duly initiated and signed the constitution. John Perkins, No. 13; Daniel Keenan, 14; George Dunbar, 15; George T. Maley, 16.

Moved by 3 and seconded by 12 that we now proceed to the election of Candidates at our last regular meeting.—*Carried.* The following parties were declared duly elected. H. G Ellis, William Ellis, Albert Beach, William Howey, H. C. Perkins, Mahlon Beach, John Cowan, Thos. S. Fraser, Erastus Fenton, Wesley Beach, Alex. Buchanan, Horace Hutchens, John Coleman, James H. Hutchens, James Kirkup, Hugh Martin, R. H. Bedingffold, Gordon Shaver, Dyer Adams, Erastus Harris, R. H. Schofield, James Smith, Robert Parkenson, H. D. Smith, Samuel Beuch, Joseph Adams, jur. W. A Garlick, Lyman C. Beach, A. Brandon, Benjamin McCargar, Wm. Spotswood; Senr. Neil Keenen Wm. Spotswood, junr. Augustus Boyd.

No. 5 proposed Henry Agnew, as a fit person to become a member of our order. No. 16 proposed John Mallon as a fit and proper person to become a member of C. B. S. No. 3, proposed Thomas Maley, and John Bass, as fit subjects to become members of the order. No. 1 proposed Abraham Knapp, and Jeremiah Shaler to become members of our order.

John Selleck, Junr. by cash $1, George Dunbar by cash $1, John Perkins by cash $1. Paid F. A. Moore, $3.

Moved by 3 and seconded by 4, that we meet at the Templars Hall, Kemptville, on Monday 5th May. at 8 o'clock, P. M.—

Received of John E, Maley, three Dollars,

HIRAM HOLMES.

KEMPTVILLE, 13 May, 1861.

The Senr. section of the C. B. S. for the North Riding of Leeds & Grenville, met at the Templars Hall on Monday Evening 14th May 1861. President F. A. Moore in the chair.

Officere Present:—Craig Holmes. Vice President; John E. Maley, Secretary; H. Holmes, Treasurer; Michael Keenan, Marshal.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

Moved by 12 and seconded by 15, that the following parties be now elected. Henry Agnew, John Bass, John Mallon and Thomas Maley.—*Carried.*

Henry Agnew was duly initiated. Mr. H. C. Perkins, was introduced and heard the constitution read but refused to be obligated. Wm. Dougall was then voted for and declared rejected.

Brother James Scott paid $1, E. Rossetor, paid $1, Henry Agnew paid $1.

Moved by 11 and seconded by 10, that the Templar's Hall be rented for the use of the section.—*Carried.*

Received of the Secretary John E. Maley, three dollars.

HIRAM HOLMES.

No. 15 proposed Alpheus Burrett and Abraham Knapp.

Section adjourned in due form.

The Senior section of the C. B. S. met at the Templars Hall on Monday evening the 20th May, 1861. President F. A. Moore in the chair. Officers present: F. A. Moore, President; Craig Holmes Vice President; Hiram Holmes, Treasurer; John E. Maley, Secretary; Thomas Adams, Scrutineer.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

H. D. Smith, H. Shaler and Thomas S. Fraser was duly initiated and signed the constitution.

No. 18 proposed J. D. Hall of Mirickville, and Wm. Wright of Mirickville. No. 20 proposed John H. Holden, D. C. Stone and Walter Wickwire, of Mirickville. No. 3 proposed John Conn and Thomas Lonsdale, of Kemptville,

Received of John E. Maley, four dollars. H. HOLMES.

Moved by 15 and seconded by 10 that Abraham Knapp and Alpheus Burret, be now elected.—*Carried.*

Alpheus Burrett and Abraham Knapp were duly elected.

Moved by 3 and seconded by 10 that the By-law relative io the election of Candidates be suspended for the purpose of electing D. J. Hall, Wm. Wright, John Holden, D. C. Stone and Walter Wickwire.—*Carried.*

The above members were duly voted for and declared elected.

Thomas S. Fraser, by cash $1, Daniel Keenan by cash $1, H. Shaler, by cash, $1, H. D. Smith, by cash $1.

The section then adjourned in due form.

KEMPTVILLE, 28th May, 1861.

The Senior Section of the C. B. S. for the North Riding of Leeds and Grenville, met at the Templar's Hall, on Tuesday

evening, May 28th, 1861. President F. A. Moore in the Chair.

Officers Present.—No. 2, V. P.; No. 3, Treasurer; No. 4, Secretary; No. 5, Thomas Adams, Scrutineer.

Minutes of previous meeting adopted.

Moved by 3, and seconded by 4,—That John Christie, Jr., be now elected.—Carried.

The following Candidates were duly initiated, viz.:

David J. Hall, Neil Keenan, Lyman C. Beach, Wesley Beach, John Christie, Jr., George Selleck.

No. 4 proposed David Boyce, Elisha Pelton, Jr., Daniel Pelton, and David Pelton, of South Gower.

No. 6 proposed Asa Clothier, Kemptville.

Lyman C. Beach, by cash, $1; J. Christie, Jr., $1; Wesley Beach, $1; D. J. Hall, $1; George Selleck, $1. Received of John E. Maley five dollars. HIRAM HOLMES.

The Senior Section of the C. B. S., for the North Riding of Leeds and Grenville, met at the Templar's Hall, on Monday evening the 3rd of June, 1861. President F. A. Moore in the Chair.

Officers Present.—No. 2, V. P.; No. 3, Treasurer; No. 4, Secretary; No. 5, absent; No. 6, absent.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

No. 4 proposed Alby Smith, of Mirickville.

Moved by No. 4, and seconded by 12,—That the by-law relating to the election of Candidates be suspended for the time being, for the purpose of electing Alby Smith.—Carried.

Moved by 4, and seconded by 12,—That we now proceed to the election of the following Candidates, viz:

Alby Smith, John Conn, D. C. Stone, Thos. Lonsdale, A. S. Smith, David Boyce, W. Wickwire, Elisha Pelton, John Mallon, Daniel Pelton, David Pelton, Asa Clothier, who were all duly elected.

The following candidates were duly initiated, viz.: Alby Smith, John Mallon, D. C. Stone, A. S. Smith, W. Wickwire.

No. 3 proposed John Selleck, Jr, Kemptville; No. 4 proposed Ambrose Clothier, Kemptville; No. 1 proposed E. Froom, South Gower; No. 25 proposed Wright Smith, Oxford; No. 15 proposed George Taylor, Kemptville; No. 18 proposed John Muir, Mirickville; No. 18 proposed Charles Holden, Mirickville; No.

22 proposed William Whitmore, Mirickville; No. 25 proposed John McPherson, School Teacher, Oxford; No. 27 proposed Jas. Armstrong and Hiram Easton, Miriokville.

Moved by 4, and seconded by 3,—That the petition of H. D. Smith and others, praying the Senior Section of the North Riding of Leeds and Grenville, to grant them a dispensation to organize a Section of the C. B. S. at Mirickville, be granted.—Carried.

D. C. Stone, by cash, $1; A. S. Smith, $1; W. Wickwire, $1; John Mallon, $1.

Received of John E. Maley, Secretary, four dollars.

HIRAM HOLMES.

The Section then adjourned to meet at the Templars' Hall on Monday, 10th June, in due form.

The Senior Section of the C. B. S. for the North Riding of Leeds and Grenville, met pursuant to adjournment. The President, F. A. Moore, in the Chair.

No. 1, President; 2, V. President; 3, Treasurer; 4, Secretary; 5, Marshal; 6, Scrutineer; 7, Sentinel.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

KEMPTVILLE, 10th June, 1861.

The Senior Section of the C. B. S. for the North Riding of Leeds and Grenville, met at the Hall pursuant to adjournment. President, F. A. Moore, in the Chair.

Moved by 4 seconded by 5, that we now proceed to the Election of Candidates.—*Carried.*

Erastus Froom, John McPherson, Ambrose Clothier and Wright Smith, was then duly elected.

Wright Smith and J. H. Perkins was duly iniated.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

Mo. 23 proposed Isaac Boyd, No. 25 proposed Samuel Buck, Robert Craig and George Moore.

The meeting adjourned in due form.

JOHN E. MALEY, Secy.

The Senior Section met in due form at the Templars' Hall, on Monday, 26th August, pursuant to adjournment. F. A. Moore in the Chair.

Minutes of previous meeting was read and approved.

Samuel Braden was duly initiated.

The President read a communication from Dr. Easton, requesting other Delegates from our Section, for the purpose of revising the Constitution and the organization of the Grand Section.

Moved by No. 4 and seconded by No. 10, that the members of the whole Section be appointed as Delegates to attend the meeting in connection with the order, to be held at Prescott on Friday, the 23rd inst.

Meeting adjourned in due form.

JOHN E. MALEY, Secy.

The Senior Section for the North Riding of Leeds and Grenville, met at the Hall on Monday, 2nd Sept., 1861. Brother F. A. Moore in the Chair.

Moved by 3 and seconded by 2, that F. A. Moore be appointed as Delegate to meet at Prescott on Wednesday, 23rd inst., for the purpose of organizing G. S. of the order.—*Carried.*

Moved by No. 4 and seconded by —, that in the event of the President not being able to attend the meeting at Prescott for the purpose of organizing Grand Section, that he shall have full power and authority to appoint one of the members of the Section to fill his place.—*Carried.*

Moved by 3 and seconded by 11, that the account presented by the Good Templars be paid.—*Carried.*

We have been told repeatedly that no secret political Society existed in Mirickville, the following is a copy of the requisition mentioned in the foregoing minutes of the Kemptville Lodge—the handwriting of the parties can be proved. At the head of the list is the name of H. D. Smith, the twice defeated candidate for the Representation of the North Riding of Leeds and Crenville. We congratulate the Conservative Electors of that Loyal Riding, that they have defeated the masked gentleman, but we think after this exposure he will not have the effrontory again to come forward.

"We the undersigned inhabitants of Mirickville, respectfully petition the Senior Section of the C. B. S. of the North Riding of Leeds and Grenvilie, to grant them a dispensation to organize a section of——— to be called——— and under your jurisdic-

tion. We pledge ourselves individually and collectively to be governed by the rules and usages of the order.

(Signed.)

H. D. SMITH, J. SHALER, WALTER WICKWIRE,
D. J. HALL, D. C. STONE, A. B. SMITH.

This requisition, dated the 3rd of last June, was duly presented to the Kemptville Lodge, and the request was forthwith granted.

The readers attention is requested to part of the foregoing proceedings, in which the following entries appear.

No, 4 proposed R. Leslie Senr. No. 3 proposed Joseph Bower and James Porter. No. 12 proposed Samuel Christie. No. 4 proposed George Taylor.

These gentlemen were subsequently duly elected and their names appear as members, but the rascality of the dodge is this, the persons proposed and elected never knew one word about it, and the names of honest Conservative residents of Kemptville were used as decoy ducks to entrap others, and to afford our friend the *Recorder* an opportunity of saying that many good Conservatives belonged to the C. B. S. Since our last, we have received the following letters, which will prove our statement to be correct.

KEMPTVILLE, 28th Oct. 1861.

R. W. KELLY, Esq. Brockville,

DEAR SIR.—In reply to your notes of the 25th inst. in which you state that you have in some manner become possessed of the Books purporting to contain the proceeding of the C. B. S. of Kemptville, and moreover, that our several names are therein recorded.

In reply we have to state, in the *most positive* manner, that if our names, or either of them, are in the Book refered to they have been placed there without *our knowledge or consent*.

We are dear sir, your obt. servants,

R. LESLIE, AMB. CLOTHIER, SAMUEL CHRISTIE,
J. BOWER, JAMES PORTER, GEORGE TAYLOR.

BURRITT'S RAPIDS, 6th Nov. 1861.

R. W. KELLY, Esq.

Dear Sir.—I have seen my name mentioned in your paper of the 30th ult. in connection with the C. B. S. or Dark Lantern Association of Kemptville. I regret very much that such should be the case, as I have had nothing whatever to do with such a Society, nor did I ever express a desire to any person or persons to become a member of such an association, having been of the opinion from what I had heard of such societies, that they are treasonable in their nature. I could not therefore for one moment think of becoming identified with them.

I wish you would be kind enough therefore to state in your next paper, that I never requested, nor did I ever consent to allow my name to be proposed by any person to become a member of such an association, feeling myself a true Conservative.

ALPHEUS BURRETT.

To R. W. KELLY, Esq.,

Dear Sir.—I read with much surprise that my name is recorded as a member in the books of the Secret Association, of the C. B. S. of Kemptville, I am not or ever was a member of the said Society; and the person who proposed me must have done so from a malicious desire to injure my reputation, as an honest loyal man. Please give this denial a place in your excellent journal, so that my friends may know the truth.

I remain yours &c.

W. A. GARLICK,
Rideau Hotel.

Kemptville, 6th Nov. 1861.

To R. W. KELLY, Esq.,

Dear Sir.—I cannot express the indignant state of my feelings, when I read in your truly independent Journal, that my name has been recorded as a member of the C. B. S. or Dark Lantern Association of Kemptville. I repudiate all connection with a masked Society; and I never sanctioned any person to propose me as a member. I wish to retain my good name amongst my fellow-citizens, and I consider a gross insult has been offered me, by recording my name in a Society ashamed of letting its objects be made public. Yours respectfully,

Kemptville, 6th Nov. 1861. AUGUSTUS BRANDON.

To the Editor of the British Central Canadian.

Dear Sir.—I regret to see in your paper, that my name appears as a duly elected member of the Canadian Brothers Society, in this Village. I beg leave to state that I never directly or indirectly authorised any person to propose me in that Society; and that whoever did so, acted without my consent, knowledge or approbation. I consider it a disgrace to be named as connected with any Society, the Constitution and objects of which are unknown, and which requires its members to be disguised with masks, &c., when assembled. Please insert this denial in your next number, and believe me.

Yours, &c.,

Kemptville, 7th Nov. 1861. ASA CLOTHIER.

The following letter written by the Rev. Wm. Price, Methodist Preacher in Kemptville, was published in the Brockville *Monitor*. This gentleman it appears is an affiliated member of the C. B. S. and designated as No. 7 on their Roll. Perhaps some of our readers may understand his style, we acknowledge we cannot; let them judge for themselves:

To the Editor of the Brockville Monitor.

SIR.—The paper published in your town, by R. W. Kelly, and called the *British Central Canadian*, has lately been exceedingly busy with names, position and public character of a number of persons residing in this vicinity; doubtless, from the acrimose exhibited by that distinguished ornament of the press, to seriously affect their standing in communiry.

My name is paraded among the rest, as belonging to an organization, that the reputable editor of the luminous sheet—in connection with others—is pleased to call the "Dark Lantern Society," and that the intention of such a body are eminently disloyal and seditious, subversive of the British authority and power in Canada; likewise most hostile to known loyal parties, as well as churches of different names now flourishing in our midst.

The statements of Mr. Kelly are false. I never have, and while my senses will not for the purposes set forth by him, in the

great kindness of his large and loving heart, connect myself with such an association.

He is trying to injure others, who, should they be disposed to retaliate, could inflict upon him a punishment which would not soon be forgotton. Ecclesiastical censure, according to his gentle and amiable announcement is speedily to be brought to bear. How tender, Mr. Central, we are afraid you might be a scorpion, but alas! the sting!

I defy the great man on this point, and if he has a particle of decency left, or any honest courage apart from the editor's desk, let him show it. I am prepared any day or any hour. I am not identified with anything that a truly loyal and firm British subject may not feel proud to fully understand.

Yours, WM. PRICE.

Kemptville, Nov. 12, 1861.

TO THE REV. WM. PRICE, Kemptville:

Revd. Sir.—As you have been pleased to address a letter to the Editor of the Brockville *Monitor*, in which my name has been frequently mentioned. In order to give your communication a more increased circulation, I re-publish it in this days' paper; and out of respect to your position in a religious community, for which I entertain the highest respect, I honor you with a direct reply; but in so doing, I labor under serious difficulties, for I cannot understand your style of composition—whether you intend it as complimentary, vituperative, or pugnacious. When you speak of the "*acrimose exhibited bg that distinguished ornament of the Prees*,—of my great kindness, and my large loving heart," my vanity leads me to imagine you are complimenting me; but when you say "*my statements are false*," and compare me to a scorpion without a sting—I consider that vituperation; and Rev. Sir, have I not good cause to put down your next assertion under the third class, pugnacity. "*That if I have ang honest courage apart from the Editor's desk, let him show it.*" If I received such a letter from a layman, or my confreres of the "*Recorder* or the *Monitor*," I would immediately put in order my 9 foot gun; but I do not consider you ever intended such a meaning in your letter. It is a pity you were not more explanatory; for if your sermons are equally unintelligible, I fear that on many occasions,

your congregation will depart completely mystified by your discourse.

But away with badinage, and putting aside all quibbling on either side—in publishing the list of certain parties as members of the C. B. S. I found your name recorded as one—if it was a charitable Association I should not have felt surprised, but being a political nature of the most ultra kind, I was somewhat astonished, particularly as it is well known, that in your place at the Conference, you have frequently spoken of the impropriety of Ministers belonging to a secret Association, and added that amongst the Preachers there was too much Orangeism to be found. You soon repudiated your former professions and became a member of a body whom you feel ashamed to acknowledge, if I am to judge by your letter.

You say you do not belong to any treasonable Association, well be it so, your friends will be happy to hear your denial, but why not back up your assertion by letting the public know what are the objects and Constitution of the Society you are connected with—if not treasonable, if not seditious—you must allow it to be truly ridiculous. To see a Reverend Minister of the Gospel disguised with a hideous Mask and Black Cloak, like old, 'Clootie' himself, is not very instructive to his flock, and if I was a member of a Church, and saw my Minister carrying on his antics, and going through the mummeries of the C. B. S. I think I would not derive much benefit from his preaching afterwards.

I will not go about the bush, Rev. Sir; I repeat that you are connected with a secret political society that does not inculcate peace and unity with the world; that it pretends to possess the power of absolving its members from a solemn obligation; and that it is an illegal and suspicious association.

You have, I understand, threatened to institute proceedings against me. Go on Rev. Sir; your Society may assist you in the necessary funds for the prosecution, but you will never prevent the undersigned from stating the truth.

Yours faithfully.

R. W. KELLY.

STAR CHAMBER PROCEEDINGS!

Mirickville Petty Sessions, before Justice McLeod and Muir.

Robert W. Kelly, Esq., Proprietor of the *British Central Canadian* Journal, published in Brockville, appeared before the Court as a prisoner, on the following charge:—

"That Craig Holmes, of Oxford, Yeoman, hath accused Robert W. Kelly, of Brockville Printer, of having stolen goods in his possession which were abstracted from complainant at Kemptville, some time between the 9th day of September and the 7th day of October 1861; and that said Kelly conceals said goods, and can be proved to have had them in his possession in his printing office; and further that the complicity of said Kelly in the theft can be established."

On the information having been read, Mr. Kelly objected to be tried by their Worships, they being members of a secret Association known as the C. B. S, or Dark Lantern men, and interested in the proceedings, and in order that Justice may be done in the case, that they allow and call in other Magistrates not interested, to examine and decide thereon.

Mr. Muir did not see in what manner the C. B. S. were interested, the name was not mentioned in the information or complaint, and in law the competency of the Bench could not be objected, and they would go on.

Mr. Kelly then appealed to their honor as gentlemen, if they had any, not to act in such a suspicious manner, he felt apprehensive that from the well known political prejudices of His Worship Muir, he, the prisoner would not get fair play, and again appealed to their love of justice to grant his request.

Mr. Muir refused, and said that he was determined to act in a proper manner, and immediately gave orders to the Constable to clear the Court; and that he would not admit the public to be present during the trial for reasons known to himself—and for so doing he had legal authority.

In vain Mr. Kelly protested against this Star Chamber proceeding, this secret court of inquisition; his objections were over ruled, and the Court having been cleared, and Constables placed at the doors to prevent admittance—the trial commenced.

Craig Holmes, sworn.—A quantity of Cloaks, Masks, a Book

and Trunk, were stolen from the Templars' Hall in Kemptville, between the days mentioned in the information. The Templars' Hall was used for public uses, did not know who stole the property, has not seen any of the articles since, was induced to make the complaint against Mr. Kelly from information from other parties, and from what he read in Mr. Kelly's paper. The value of the articles abstracted was from $15 to $20.

Cross-exnmined by Mr. Kelly.—Were the whole of the articles stolen your own property? *A.* Part of them were.

Q. What part of them? *A.* A Mask and a Cloak.

Q. Since the whole lot was not your property, how came you to get out a warrant and search for the whole? *A.* I had a share or interest in the rest. On this answer being given, His Worship Muir began to look rather nervous.

Q. With whom or what other party were you interested in said property? No answer.

Q. On your oath Sir, was there not an Association or Society interested with you in this joint property? *A.* There was.

Q. Please give the name of that Society? The Witness hesitated, and Justice Muir could not see that the question had anything to do with the present case. Mr. Kelly insisted, and whilst contending for his right to put the question, the door of the Court Hall was pushed open, and R. Waugh, Esq., followed by Messrs. Johnston, Hurd, Whitmarsh, and 1 or 2 other Magistrates, entered the Hall, and took their places at the table. Mr. Waugh addressed Mr. Muir, and told him that there was considerable excitement amongst the people outside, that they were indignant at being turned out, and that for the ends of justice and to away with all suspicion of unfair play, that the Court now adjourn for one hour, and that at its opening, the public be admitted. The only opposants to this motion being the two inquisitors on the Bench, it was carried, and the Court adjourned.

Previous to the commencement of the trial and knowing well that the faction would not stick at a trifle, in order to accomplish his ruin. Mr. Kelly purchased in the morning at Mr. Merrick's store 3 yards of Black Muslin and cut it Poncho fashion as worn by the Darkies, and took it into the Hall with him, our readers will see a little fun from this same poncho.

The Court Hall having been re-opened and the public admitted,

Messrs. Muir, McLeod, Waugh, Johnstou, Hurd, Whitmarsh, Kelly, Read and Mirick, J. P's. took their seats.

Croes examination of Craig Holmes continued:—You seem Mr. Holmes somewhat reluctant to tell the name of the Society who are interested in the property. Is it not the Senior Section of the C. B. S. of the North Riding of Leeds and Grenville. *Yes.*

Q. Can you say how long that particular branch of the Order has been established in Kemptville? *A.* Since last Spring.

Q. Are you a member of that Society? *A.* I am.

Q. When you first joined that Society, was there not an obligation or oath required from you that you should not acknowledge your connection with it? *A.* I was not to admit it publicly.

Q. You were then bound to deny it? *A.* I was.

Q. How long was it after the discovery of the robbery of the Lodge Room in Prescott that the obligation binding you and others to secrecy, was rescinded? *A.* I do not know.

Q. You state on Oath in your Complaint or information on which you obtained a warrant, and arrested me, that you had received information from other parties and from my own newspaper, is not this the notice that appeared in my paper? (Here Mr. Kelly read the public notice calling on parties to come and claim the goods left with him.) *A.* Yes.

Q. How then could you swear that I was concealing them, after I had publicly advertised them? *A.* Because I did not find them when I first went to look for them.

Q. Could you identify any of the property? *A.* I could, some by marks.

Q. Now Sir, here is an article that has been knocking about some time, can you find any particular marks on it to say it belongs to the Society? Here the Black Poncho was handed to Witness, he examined it carefully and declared his belief *that it was part of the stolen property!!!* Mr. Kelly immediately explained to the Court his purchase of the Muslin in the morning, his cutting it in due form in the Store, and appealed to Squire Mirick for the truth of his statement—that gentleman having confirmed it, considerable merriment was created in the crowded Hall.

Q. When you took the oath or obligation of secrecy as to your connection with the C. B. S. did you not consider it as binding you? *A.* I did conditionally.

Q. Do you consider that any Society or Association has the power to absolve a person from keeping that oath? To this question no answer could be obtained.

Q. Has not the Society, by vote or implied agreement, undertaken to pay you all the expenses you may incur in this prosecution? *A.* They have.

Q. Did they not subscribe $200 for that purpose? *A.* I do not know. *Q.* On your oath, Sir, do you believe that I stole the articles mentioned? *A.* I do not.

David Wylie, Esq., sworn.—He deposed that the first annonncement he received about the goods, was from Mr. Kelly himself; that he exhibited to deponent a quantity of Masks, Cloaks, &c., a book of minutos of proceedings and a letter. He understood from Mr. Kelly that they belonged to the Kemptville lodge; that Mr. Kelly had given him a Mask, which he now handed into Court, and that the book he saw appeared as if it had been buried under ground.

Cross examined by Mr. Kelly.—*Q.* Are you not the editor of the *Recorder*? *A.* I am.

Q. Are you not a Freemason? *A.* I am.

Q. Being a Freemason do not the Brethren known as such, when in conversation with each other, speak more unreservedly and confidentially together than usually with other parties?

A. They do. *Q.* Did I not invite you to my office some day last month, and say: Come Wiley, you have for a length of time, denied the existence of the Dark Lantern Chaps, come in, and I will show you convincing proofs of their existence; or words to a similar effect? *A.* You did.

Q. Did I show you any articles, books or papers connected therewith, and did I not tell you I believed they were stolen, but that I did not know who sent them to me? *A.* You did.

Q. Were the articles concealed in my office? *A.* No.

Q. Are you not aware that I advertised them in my Journal, calling upon the parties who lost them, to come and claim property?

A. I saw a notice to that effect in the *Canadian.*

Q. When you were looking at the Masks, did you not request I would give you one, and on your request, did I not do so?

A. You did. *Q.* Did not you subsequently assert in your paper, (the *Recorder*) that the Masks I had in my office, pretending

that they belonged to the C. B. S. were the remaining part of my old stock of Toys that I had when in Kemptville? *A.* I did, but Editors of papers frequently say things in order to have some fun with each other. Then in that assertion you must have stated an untruth? No answer. The last question I shall put to you Mr. Wiley is:—*Q.* On your oath do you believe that I stole the Goods? *A.* I do not.

John E. Maley sworn.—Believes the articles mentioned in the information were stolen, the book was stolen first and the other articles subsequently; amongst the articles was a letter from Dr. Easton. Has not seen them since. Does not believe that prisoner stole them.

Question by E. H. Whitmarsh, Esq.—Were your minutes correctly published by Mr. Kelly. *A.* They were, with the exception of several names left blank.

A long discussion then arose in consequence of a question put to the witness by Mr. Muir, relative to the correctness of other articles connected with the Society and published by Mr. Kelly. Mr. Kelly contending that Mr. Muir had no right to put such a question to the witness, except the publications were present, and that this court was not a proper tribunal to test the question as to the objects and constitution of the C. B. S., it being proved by a witness this day that they change them to suit their convenience, that it was a regular chameleon, both in color and shape, and what was binding one day, was the next day repealed.

The Bench decided that both questions be erased from the evidence.

[By the bye, Mr. Muir kept his own minutes, entered the questions to suit himself, in some cases changed the words used by the witnesses, and we believe never read them over previous to signature.]

Robert Spotswood sworn.—Saw a book in Mr. Kelly's office in Brockville—it was connected with the C. B. Lodge in Kemptville—it was in Mr. John Maley's hand-writing. Does not believe Mr. Kelly stole the book.

Isaac Mills sworn.—Saw a book, masks and cloak in possession of prisoner; knew the hand-writing to be that of Mr. John Maley. Doe's not believe that Mr. Kelly stole the articles.

Messrs. *Leslie*, *McGregor*, *Carnegie* and *Clancy*, were examined, but of their own knowledge knew nothing about the affair.

Edson Rossitor, Constable of Kemptville, and member of the C. B. S., sworn.—When I searched Mr. Kelly's house in Brockville, I found none of the articles, nor was I molested whilst searching for them, had every facility given me. Does not believe Mr. Kelly stole the goods. Cannot say why a Mirickville Justice of the Peace should employ a Kemptville Constable, cannot say that because deponent is a member of the C. B. S. he got a preference over the Mirickville officers. Cannot say as to the reason why Mr. Dowdall was not intrusted with the warrant, cannot say it is because he is a Roman Catholic. Does not believe that Mr. Kelly stole the goods.

The Prosecutor, seeing that no evidence was adduced to implicate Mr. Kelly, and that he would be honorably acquitted, made a motion to adjourn the case to a further day, stating that one of his witnesses, Mr. Thomas Adams, was unable to attend the court in consequence of an accident he met with the day previous. H. Holmes, father to the prosecutor came forward and offered to swear, that he, Holmes, had served him with a summons that morning, but Mr. A. was so unwell that he could not attend. The statement was proved false at once, by several in Court saying that they had seen Mr. Adams in the streets of the Village that morning, and that nothing seemingly ailed him. The Court very properly refused to swear Old Holmes, and he retired very much chagrined at not being able to kiss the book.

The case being closed, the Court Hall was cleared whilst the Magistrates were in consultation, and in three minutes Mr. Kelly was called in and informed by the chairman, J. Muir, Esq., that he was honorably and unanimously acquitted.

Thus ended the Mirickville farce for the present. The Darkies sneaked off covered with confusion, and the numerous friends of Mr. Kelly escorted him in triumph to his Hotel, when having given three hearty cheers for the Queen, and three groans for the Dark Lantern men, they queitly separated to their respective homes.

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